

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0193] with the following amended paragraph:

[0193] A classification coprocessor **730** “snoops” on data packets passing between network I/O interface **710** and fabric interface **720** and network processor **740**. Classification coprocessor is configured to detect particular types of packets by detecting characteristics of those packets at any protocol level. The patterns that the classification coprocessor detects are stored in a coprocessor pattern memory **732**, which is set a classification control processor **734**. When classification coprocessor **730** detects a particular type of packet is it looking for, it informs network processor **740** with little delay after network processor **740** has received the packet. In this version of the system, classification coprocessor **730** is manufactured by Solidum Systems, and provides detection of packets based on regular expression specifications. These regular expressions can ~~involves~~ involve features of the packet at one or more protocol layers.

Please replace paragraph [0197] with the following amended paragraph:

[0197] If the packet does not need to processing by software layers of the architecture, network processor **740** send the packet out fabric interface **720** to an I/O module for transmission out of the MSSP. The I/O module receives the packet, which is passed through network processor **740** to I/O interface **710** and out of the MSSP.